

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mitsuhiro Kurano

Filed: 14 August 2006

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Serial No: 10/597,953

Art Unit: 3749

For: DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING SAME

Date: 3 January 2007

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of filing or before a first Office Action on the merits, and therefore, it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

Two (2) U.S. patent documents and four (4) foreign patent documents are listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is made a part hereof. A copy of each of the foreign patent documents is attached. A translation of the abstract of JP 55-132500, JP 60-198457 and JP 6-222048 (Cite No. 1, 2 and 4) is also attached.

Additionally, U.S. Patent No. 5,096,471 is believed to be the equivalent of Japanese Patent No. JP 5-502734 and U.S. Patent No. 4,650,964 is believed to be the equivalent of Japanese Patent No. JP 60-198457.

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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